GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3732
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL SCALE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY
RUPCHAND PAL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution of small scale pharmaceutical industry in national pharmaceutical demand and employment generation by the SSI sector in the country;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the pharmaceutical sector has done a tremendous growth and kept foreign multinational companies at bay;

(c) if so, whether the Government are aware that new SSI units in pharmaceutical industry are facing threat of closure due to amendment proposed in Schedule `M` of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rule thereby ensuring entry of multinational companies in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

(b) Govt. is aware of the high growth of Indian Pharmaceutical Sector in terms of production of drugs and pharmaceuticals in the country.

(c) & (d) All India Small Scale `Pharmaceutical Manufacturers` Association had represented to the Govt. of India in regard to the apprehensions visualized by them that amendment to Schedule M to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 would require large scale changes in terms of plan, machinery and premises etc. would lead to the closure of many small scale units. The fears expressed were not found to be based on facts as the new Schedule M does not visualize any major changes in respect of area, plant or machinery in respect of tablets, capsules, liquid orals, inhalers normally undertaken by the small scale sector for manufacturing.
As such, the Indian sector of Pharma industry has now acquired major share of the market as compared to multi-national companies and more than 150 Indian manufacturers have WHOGood Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Certification.Therefore, the apprehension that revision of Schedule M would ensure entry of multi-national companies is unfounded.